

SENATE BILL 1234

By Gilmore

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4 and Title 68, relative to nursing homes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-11-908, is amended by deleting subsection (a) substituting the following:

(a)

(1) Except as provided in subdivision (a)(2), the administrator of a nursing home may refuse access to the facility to a person whose presence would be injurious to the health and safety of a resident or the staff, or would threaten the security or the property of the residents, staff, or facility.

(2) In the event of a disease outbreak, epidemic, or pandemic, the administrator of a nursing home shall not refuse access to the facility to a family member of a resident. The administrator may limit the number of family members allowed access to the facility at any one (1) time pursuant to rules promulgated by the board for licensing health care facilities.

(3) For the purposes of this subsection, "family member" means a child, mother, father, spouse, sibling, aunt, uncle, cousin, stepparent, stepchild, grandparent, grandchild, or an individual recognized to be in a familial relationship with the resident.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-11-901, is amended by deleting subdivision (3) and substituting the following:

(3) To visit in private with any person or persons during reasonable hours, subject to § 68-11-908;

SECTION 3. The board for licensing health care facilities is authorized to promulgate rules to effectuate this act. The rules must be promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in Tenn. Code Ann., Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 4. For the purpose of promulgating rules, this act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act takes effect July 1, 2021, the public welfare requiring it.